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On the Hill



99th Congress Adjourns

President signs major bills
of interest to FNS

The second session of the 99th Congress adjourned on October 18. Listed below are some of the major bills of interest to FNS passed by the Congress and signed by the President:

- o P.L. 99-498, the Higher Education Act Amendments - provides that Pell Grant funds used for the purpose of purchasing books and other educational materials are exempt as income for food stamp purposes.
- o P.L. 99-425, the Human Services Authorization Act - prohibits counting low-income home energy program contributions against food stamp shelter deductions.
- o P.L. 99-570, the Omnibus Anti-Drug Bill - contains a "homeless" provision allowing food stamp recipients to redeem their food stamps at soup kitchens.
- o P.L. 99-509, the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1986 - provides for an Income Eligibility Verification System for food stamp participants.
- o P.L. 99-500, the Continuing Resolution for FY 1987 - in addition to FY 1987 appropriations, highlights include:

1. a 3 percent pay raise for Federal civilian employees.
2. a further evaluation to test whether WIC supplemental foods provided during pregnancy have an affect on the growth and development of preschool children.
3. the issuance of new proposed WIC funding allocation regulations to supercede the September 9 proposal.
4. a child nutrition amendment (H.R.7).

Other bills of interest passed the Congress and awaiting action by the President include:

- o S.1744, the Omnibus Health Bill - provides for the establishment of a National Commission to prevent infant mortality.
- o S.1200, the Immigration Bill - allows illegal aliens to become temporary legal residents if they can prove that they have worked in American agriculture for 90 days in the year prior to May 1986.
- o S.2638, the Department of Defense Authorization Bill - contains a child nutrition amendment, H.R.7.

Job Opportunities

FNS is seeking to fill the following vacant positions. To be considered for one of them, submit an up-to-date SF-171, Personal Qualifications Statement, and current performance appraisal to the appropriate personnel office. If you're interested in a Headquarters position, apply to the Employment Branch, Personnel Division, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Alexan-

dria, Virginia 22302. Apply directly to Headquarters office for all GM-14 and 15 positions. For Regional positions, directly to the Regional Office. For details on the requirements for any of the positions listed below, consult the official vacancy announcement. These are posted on designated bulletin boards or you can get copies from the appropriate Regional or Headquarters personnel office.

Friday Letter Vacancy Listing By Vacancy Number

Job Title	Area of Consid.	Series	Grade	Closing Date	Vacancy Number	Organizational Unit
Clerk/Typist	(L)	GS-322	2/3/4	Open until filled	86-35	PED
Program Manager	(FNS H)	GS-340	12	11-24-86	86-43	IRMD-Minn. MN
Food Program Offcr (Ext. of closing date)	(FNS N)	GM-120	15	11-17-86	86-46	ORO
Secretary Typing	(L)	GS-318	3/4/5	11-24-86	86-47	SFPD
Secretary Typing	(FNS H)	GS-318	5/6	11-17-86	86-48	SNP
Secretary Typing	(G)	GS-318	5/6	11-24-86	86-49	CR/EEO
Supvry Food Program Specialist	(FNS N)	GM-120	13	12-1-86	86-50	SNP

ORO - Office of Regional Operations

SFPD - Supplemental Food Programs Division

SNP - Special Nutrition Programs

CR/EEO - Civil Rights/Equal Employment Opportunity

IRMD - Information Resources Management Division; Minn., MN

Area of Consideration:

(FNS H) - FNS Headquarters

(FNS N) - FNS Nationwide

(G) - Government-wide

(A) - All Sources

(L) - Local Commuting Area

FNS Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Week

FNS celebrated Hispanic Heritage Week, September 14-20 with a variety of activities. In keeping with the theme, "Hispanics - An Economic and Electoral Influence," Headquarters invited speakers with political and business backgrounds to participate in the week's celebration.



A keynote speech was presented by Congressman Jaime B. Fuster, Resident Commissioner for the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. His speech focused on the issues affecting "The Future of

Hispanics in the United States: A Dual Challenge and an Agenda for the Future."

Two political documentary films were also shown during the week, but the highlight was the second annual international potluck luncheon. Sampling some of the food (below) are Johnny Braden (PID) and Jackie LaBatt (NTS).



The business or corporate sector was represented by Humberto Pena, Legislative Counsel for Bristol Myers, Inc., who discussed the increased roles of Hispanics with major corporations and emphasized the positive impact of Hispanics on the economy of the United States.



After the luncheon, employees enjoyed dancing to the music by guitarist Daniel Hernandez as others clapped to the beat. Pictured (above) are Vicky Urcuyo (SNP) and Noel Mercado (NTS).

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In the Midwest, MWRO Hispanic Employment Program Manager Alicia Hernandez introduced employees to consultant/researcher William Luna who helped employees become aware of the contributions of Hispanics in the area of science, art, and industry. Another guest was Dr. Antonio Lopez, Professor of Sociology at Chicago's North Park College, who spoke on race and stereotypes evident among Hispanics. In addition, a video tape, "Another American," was also made available for viewing to all MWRO employees.



In the Mountain Plains Region, employees enjoyed a potluck luncheon to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Week. Pictured (left to right) are Dale Zimmerman, Frances Keen, James Sattler, and Bill Oaks.



The Western Region celebrated with two films: Saura's Flamenco version of the opera "Carmen," and "Salvador," a story of a journalist's visit to El Salvador and the political upheaval he captured with his camera. WRO employees also had a taste of Mexico at an office luncheon.

The Northeast Region was honored with special guest Assistant Secretary John W. Bode, who was in Massachusetts to address a symposium. While Bode was in the regional office, he announced the winner of the chili contest that was held as part of Hispanic Heritage Week celebrations. The winner was Claudia Smith of Special Nutrition Programs. Below, Olga Benjamin, NERO Hispanic Employment Program Manager, and Assistant Secretary Bode look on as NERO Regional Administrator Harry McLean tries on a sombrero. Olay!



**Thanks to everyone
who made Hispanic
Heritage Week
a huge success!!!**



MAKE A DREAM COME TRUE

Combined 1987 Federal Campaign

The annual Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) is underway. Through the CFC, you can be sure that help will be there when it is needed. Help for young people seeking direction in their lives, help for disabled, help for the oppressed overseas, help for troubled families, help for all of us.

Agencies supported by the CFC not only help the poor, they also serve people from all parts of society. One out of three of our neighbors in the National Capitol area received help last year.

We have all seen examples of how troubles can come to the healthiest and happiest among us. None of us is immune to catastrophe. Thanks to our gifts to the CFC, we can help in a personal way to "make a dream come true."

Add your personal touch to this combined Federal effort. You can help us meet the challenge. "Make A Dream Come True."

Administrator Leard First to Sign Up for CFC

The FNS Combined Federal Campaign gets off to a great start as Administrator Robert Leard is the first in the agency to sign his pledge. Looking on are (from left) CFC coordinators Molly Howell of the Administrator's office; Rich Platt, FNS; and Anneva Hackley, DAFM.



Employee of the Month Awards

Employee of the Month Awards for August were recently presented to Valerie Adkins and Denise Cunningham-Abney by Administrator Robert Leard.



Valerie is a clerk typist in Family Nutrition Programs. She received a certificate and a \$100 award for her excellent contribution in assuming the responsibilities as acting secretary in the Program Development Division and for providing typing services to the Federal quality control project.



Denise, secretary to the deputy administrator for management, received a certificate and a \$100 award for her excellence and dedication in providing secretarial support to the Administrator's office and for typing voluminous correspondence for the civil rights complaint pilot project.

Bismarck Field Office Gets New OIC

Sharron Lasher, a food program specialist in the Bismarck, North Dakota Field Office since January 1980, has been selected as officer in charge (OIC) of that office. She filled the vacancy created when former OIC Ross Bestgen retired earlier this year.

A native of Washburn, North Dakota, Sharron began her career at a county social services office in 1966. Since North Dakota had one of the original food stamp pilot projects, Sharron was involved with the program from the beginning. Seven years later, she moved to Bismarck and worked her way up in the state social service hierarchy to the level of eligibility technician 2, specializing in social security income, public assistance, and medical services. In 1980, she was hired by FNS and has remained with the agency ever since.

As Bismarck OIC, Sharron handles civil rights complaints, congressional inquiries, food stamp quality control, retail store authorizations and monitoring, and TEFAP reviews. In addition, this past summer she worked with the special milk program and has been involved in a WIC review on one of the four Indian reservations in the area. She's looking forward to additional duties as OIC, a challenge Sharron Lasher is well prepared to accept.

-Article by Joanne Widner
MPRO Public Affairs Staff

